

## Top Stories of 2019

Contributing writers: Amy Hansen, Julie Rapp, Caitlin McGrath, Kathleen Gallagher, Cathie Meetre, Gary Childs, Deanna Dawson

### Another Year of Election Firsts

In 2009 this column announced the election of the first African American to the Greenbelt City Council, despite the evidence of census figures that for some time African Americans had outnumbered whites in Greenbelt. Emmett Jordan was not only elected to council but on his first run received the second highest number of votes and was elected mayor pro tem to Judith Davis's long-standing role as mayor. Come the 2011 election, rinse and repeat, with Jordan further narrowing the gap in votes between himself and Davis. Then in 2013, Jordan took it to the top and went on to serve three terms as Greenbelt's first African American mayor, with Davis serving as mayor pro tem.

With the 2019 election, the script was rewritten even further. The first candidate under the age of 28 was elected to council on his very first run, despite census evidence that people over age 28 have outnumbered those under 28 for some time. Not only that, but Colin Byrd didn't pause to take the job of mayor pro tem for a term or two but rather went straight for the job of mayor, being selected by his fellow newly-elected council members just after his 27th birthday. His strongest support was in the precincts of Old Greenbelt. And, yes . . . he is also African American, which makes him the city's second African American mayor and makes him and Jordan Greenbelt's first African American mayor and mayor pro tem team.

There were other noteworthy changes at this election, some of which may be worthy of future reflection. Byrd's election brings the total of councilmembers residing in Greenbelt East

See **TOP STORIES**, page 3

## First Day of Kwanzaa



PHOTO BY EMMETT JORDAN

Rene Raysor reads a children's story at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center during a community gathering on the first day of Kwanzaa.

## Local Solar Scientist Models Processes for Life Creation

by Amy Hansen

What could have started life on Earth?

It's a broad question. Much broader than most scientists work with when presenting a poster at the 30,000 person American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco on December 10.

And to be fair, it wasn't exactly what Eleanor Roosevelt High School class of 2007 alum J. Grant Mitchell was asking. Specifically he and his colleagues presented a poster titled: Assessing the Solar Neutron and Gamma-ray Contribution to Early Earth's Atmospheric Ingredients of Life.

Which boils down to, what

could have started life on Earth, or maybe, it would be better put: Could eruptions from a young sun have provided enough energy to start life on Earth without neutrons or gamma rays?

Most of the time, Mitchell studies neutral particles, such as gamma rays and neutrons. He works in the laboratory of Georgia de Nolfo, a Goddard Space Flight Center physicist who studies radiation as well as neutral particles in the area between Earth and the Sun. Mitchell is also working on a Ph.D. in physics at George Washington

See **SCIENTIST**, page 7

## Greenspring Ladies Gather For Christmas Charity Potluck



PHOTO BY BETH MORRISON

The ladies of Greenspring held their annual potluck and charity collection on December 21. Every year they share good food and fellowship, have a cookie exchange, and donate to charities. This year they collected wrapped boxes for the women and children at Shepherd's Cove in Prince George's County and donated hats, gloves, and socks to The Neighborhood Well, which performs outreach initiatives to support our homeless neighbors. From left are Elena Bishop, Uthra Rao, Beth Morrison, Eulalie Lucas, Brenda Velez, Sabrina McIntyre and Rosezina Rogers; not pictured are Janice Davis, Hope McCalla, Regina Small and Maxine Strong.

## Long-Distance Reading App Developed by Greenbelters

by Matt Arbach

Interested in combining reading and video chatting? If so, brothers Christopher, Mischa and Daniel, and father Michael Grunberg are offering free access to their WePair app as part of a beta test of their product. Said Christopher, "it's specifically designed for grandparents to read to a grandchild but may be used by anyone wanting to share books with a loved one." A built-in library is provided.

The idea was born from frustration. Christopher noted that their mother, Anne Marie, "was trying to bond with her new grandson by reading to him over video chat," but the process

proved a disaster. It was difficult to share the illustrations due to camera problems and at times the

poor imaging made it seem like she had fallen asleep. He said,

See **NEW APP**, page 5



PHOTO BY LINDA IVY

The Co-op opens at 7 a.m. on Christmas Eve and Ann Sowers greets customers with holiday cheer.

### What Goes On

**Monday, January 6**  
8 p.m., City Council Worksession, Roosevelt Center Merchants, Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, January 8**  
8:30 p.m., City Council Worksession, Beltway Plaza Proposed Redevelopment, Community Center



Editorial

## Farewell to a Good and Kind Writer, Teacher and Friend

On December 23 Jim Link, a Greenbelt News Review member, a great writer, and a friend, died. Jim had been a member of the News Review for about a decade. During that time he reported on a variety of topics but was best known for his entertaining and punchy reviews of Greenbelt Arts Center productions, Reel and Meal events, and his previews of upcoming movies. Visit the Archives page on the News Review website ([greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives/](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives/)) and type “Jim Link” into the search bar to be treated to a wide variety of the things Jim wrote for the paper. (See box for a small sampling of Jim’s articles and reviews.)

Besides being a great writer, he was a kind and cheerful colleague with a ready laugh and a listening ear. He took people seriously, showing respect and interest in what they were saying. He loved art, literature, drama and was a loved and respected teacher. Along with his many, many friends here in Greenbelt we will miss him greatly.

### Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



### A Small Sampling of Jim Link’s News Review Articles

- January 26, 2012: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly Coalesce in Poetry at the New Deal
- February 2, 2012: Rod Lucas at 17 Admires Veterans, Tuskegee Airmen
- May 10, 2012: Poets and Other Readers Gather at Library to Share Poetry Works
- July 26, 2012: New Deal Café is Named Area’s Best Musical Venue
- November 15, 2012: Arts Center Offers Look Back at Frost vs. Nixon
- February 28, 2013: Audience Enjoys New Play at Art Center
- December 26, 2013: December “Shop with a Cop” Spreads Local Holiday Cheer
- November 6, 2014: Weird Karma, Happy Day!
- February 5, 2015: Greenbelt Baptist Church Welcomes Associate Pastor
- December 15, 2016: Brooks Inspires Students from Many Backgrounds
- August 16, 2018: Lost in the Charnel House

## Letters to the Editor

### Cool Those Magnets

In reference to Pat Heil’s letter (12/26), the cooling of superconducting magnets of an electrified SCMaglev bullet train does not promote or expedite natural gas production, or exploitation as she puts it. Helium is one of the most plentiful gases in the universe. It is readily available as a byproduct of natural gas production, like turning on the heat inside a car during cold weather is a byproduct of starting and driving the car. In addition, other means of cooling are currently being researched.

*Robert Snyder*



### On Screen

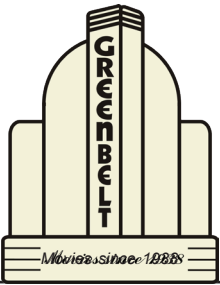
## Knives Out (Pop-up)

When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombley dies just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc arrives at this estate to investigate. From Harlan’s dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Thrombley’s untimely demise. “This whodunit, says Jonny Oleksinski of the New York Post, “is an A-list-turned slay-list party starring Daniel Craig, Toni Collette, Chris Evans and Jamie Lee Curtis. It’s fun to watch super-serious actors get to misbehave.”

Rated PG-13, running time 130 minutes.

Little Women continues (Auditorium)

*- Sandy Rodgers*



Old Greenbelt Theatre  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
[www.greenbelttheatre.org](http://www.greenbelttheatre.org)  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Members' Kids Free!  
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5  
**OC = Open Captions**  
**CC = Closed Captions**  
**DVS = Descriptive Video Service**

### SHOWTIMES

January 3rd - 9th

#### The Auditorium

LITTLE WOMEN (PG)(CC)  
(DVS)(2019)(135 mins)  
Fri. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Sat. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Sun. 2:30(OC), 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Mon. 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Tues. 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Wed. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Thurs. 5:30, 8:30 PM

Monday Matinee  
TWENTIETH CENTURY  
(NR)(1934)(91 mins)  
Mon. 1:00 PM - Free!

#### The Pop-Up

KNIVES OUT (PG-13)(CC)  
(DVS)(2019)(130 mins)  
Fri. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Sat. 2:00(OC), 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Mon. 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Tues. 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Wed. 2:00 PM, 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Thurs. 5:00, 8:00 PM

## Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.  
[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)

### Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published. All letters must include the letter writer’s name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request. All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.

# Greenbelt News Review

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Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.



# Community Events

## GCAN Discusses Climate Legislation

Join Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) at the Community Center from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7 (note change in day) to learn about the next big pieces of climate legislation being introduced in Annapolis this legislative session. Emily Frias, Maryland Grassroots Coordinator at Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) will be presenting information about a new, economy-wide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA) plan. This reform bill is being introduced by Senator Paul Pinsky. Maryland currently has a plan to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent of 2006 levels by 2030. However, this is not enough of a reduction to be in line with where the science says we need to be to avoid climate catastrophe. In addition, there is no current plan for reaching net-zero carbon emissions. Discussion at the meeting will include new proposed targets, immediate emergency action steps, as well as equity and labor considerations.

Frias will also be speaking briefly about other priority legislation, including a bill to end incentives for trash incineration and a climate test for new pipeline projects.

Frias has been at CCAN for the past year. A Baltimore native, she became focused on climate issues after learning how it would affect port cities, like her hometown. Prior to her position at CCAN, she served as staff to Senator Mary Washington and held a development role at the University of Maryland.

The latter part of the evening will be spent on making progress on several local drawdown solutions GCAN has selected to focus on this year and working on the GCAN county level legislative campaign. GCAN always allows time for announcements of upcoming events.

For more information, contact Lore Rosenthal, GCAN, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org), 301-345-2234.

## Golden Age Club January Schedule

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meeting schedule is changed for January. See the details below. The Club meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Community Center Multipurpose Room. All Greenbelt seniors are invited to participate in the meetings and join the group.

As colder weather is here, note that the meeting will not be held when schools are closed or may start late due to weather.

### Programs for January

January 8: Kenya Finley, Supervisory Park Ranger, Civil War Defenses of Washington, D.C., National Park Service, will speak on Women of Color in the Civil War.

January 15: Business Meeting.

January 22: Birthday/Potluck Luncheon.

January 29: Bingo.

The schedule changes are for January only.



## Quadrille Opens January 3 at GAC

Greenbelt Arts Center presents the East Coast premiere of *Quadrille: A Romantic Play*, by Melynda Kiring, opening Friday, January 3. *Quadrille* is a delicious tale featuring romance, secret plots, good food, heroic duels and plenty of perfectly prepared corn muffins. The play runs Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through January 19. For more information and tickets visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).

## Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club meets every first, third and fifth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church. Toastmasters provides a supportive environment for anyone interested in improving communication, public speaking or leadership skills. Learn more at [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org](http://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org).

## Free Art Drop-in Sunday, January 5

On Sunday, January 5, join Artist-in-residence Kathy Karlson for a free painting and collage workshop at the Community Center. All ages welcome. Have fun creating with your dominant and non-dominant hands and experiment with large and small papers and with complementary colors. Seatings at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Advance online registration recommended; follow the link to sign up at [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/arts). Walk-up guests also welcome for both seatings while supplies last.

## Library Update

The Greenbelt Branch Library is closed until Tuesday, January 21, while new shelves and carpet are being installed. Library users are encouraged to visit nearby branches, such as New Carrollton and Beltsville, for their various library needs.

Meanwhile, the Community Center will host weekly Ready 2 Read storytimes in Room 202. Wednesday, January 8, 10:15 a.m., ages 3 to 5, limit 30 people; 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3, limit 30 people. Thursday, January 9, 11:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2, limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s).

The New Carrollton Branch Library is the next stop on the tour of a model Purple Line Light Rail Vehicle (LRV). The 16-mile Purple Line will run from Bethesda to New Carrollton.

This 140-foot light rail train, with a passenger capacity in excess of 400, will be the longest one of its kind in the nation. The model LRV is 1/20 the length of the actual light rail vehicle and will be on display at the New Carrollton library for several weeks.

All trains will have dedicated disability accessible space, 80 passenger seats and bike racks. Connections via the Purple Line include Metrorail's Red, Green, Yellow and Orange lines as well as MARC, Amtrak and local bus services.



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

This model of the Purple Line train is on display at the New Carrollton branch library.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE GREENBELT ARTS CENTER!

Greenbelt Arts Center presents:

QUADRILLE

A ROMANTIC PLAY

Written by Melynda Kiring

Directed by Stephen Foreman

January 3 – 19, 2020

Tickets: [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)

Buy Tickets at [www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)

Tickets: \$24 adults, \$22 seniors/military, \$12 students/youth

Coming Soon to the Greenbelt Arts Center

January 31-February 8 - *Love's Labour's Lost*

February 21-March 1 - *Leaves of America*

## TOP STORIES continued from page 1

to four, likely a first-time majority. In addition, this election apparently resulted in considerably higher levels of fundraising in some quarters than has been typical in Greenbelt in the past and included more donations from outside the city than has previously been the case.

## Co-op Initiates Solar Roof Raises Money, Wins Grants

In January 2019, the Co-op Supermarket & Pharmacy kicked off an ambitious initiative called Rays on the Roof to replace its ailing and substandard roof and install a solar array that will generate a significant portion of the power needed by the store. In a concerted community campaign, the store raised over \$350,000 in a combination of loans and donations in approximately six weeks. The loans are paid back over a variety of periods that enable Co-op to service the loans and cycle some of the electricity savings back into store operations within an approximately 10-year period. The solar array is only part of the energy savings. Savings from improved insulation and the elimination of expensive roof repairs are also expected to boost Co-op's financial situation.

Part of the fundraising activity was an application for a grant from the State of Maryland. The store is a cooperative, not a charity, so many grants are off limits. This particular grant, however, was fair game because it is associated with the development or restoration of facilities that serve the community. Co-op was able to make an excellent case for the solar array as assisting in the Co-op's survival for the benefit of Greenbelt residents. The successful application netted a grant of \$350,000, completing the overall funding for the roof and array.

Co-op issued a request for proposals, awarding a contract to Adelphia Construction for the roof replacement and Solar Innovations for the array. Work on the roof is underway, with completion scheduled in the next few weeks. Then the roof will settle for a short period and the array will be installed and powered up – anticipated in March 2020.

## Greenbelt Station Students To Attend Greenbelt Schools

At long last, families living in Greenbelt Station (GS) will be able to send their children to Greenbelt Elementary School and to Eleanor Roosevelt High School. In November, the Prince George's County Board of Education (BOE) voted to adjust boundaries in order to make the change. Mayor Colin Byrd called the decision "long overdue for the great people of Greenbelt Station."

Currently, GS elementary students attend Berwyn Heights Elementary and high school students attend Parkdale High School. The Greenbelt City Council and the residents of GS have long been asking the BOE to realign districts so that GS residents could send their children to Greenbelt schools. GS was developed and homes purchased, with the new residents, along with councilmembers, understanding that school-aged children in these families would attend Greenbelt Elementary and Roosevelt.

The change will be implemented for the 2020-2021 school year. Joshua Thomas, District 2 BOE member, said that the decision was a result of several factors, including the persistence of Greenbelt residents and council. According to Thomas, in light of the fact that the number of students affected would be fewer than 20 at each school, Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Dr. Monica Goldson and the BOE decided to make the boundary adjustment.

See TOP STORIES, page 5

GATe

Program Schedule Friday Jan 3 - Thursday Jan 9

|       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| 7 am  | Greenbelt Newsreel                          | • Community Events • Weekly Updates  |
| 8 am  | Democracy Now!                              | • Independent Global News  |
| 9 am  | GATe Classic Film ★<br>Fantasy/Drama • 1950 | • Orpheus/Orphée • Jean Cocteau<br>Made Possible by a Grant from<br>★ Anonymous Donors ★ |
| 11 am | Greenbelt Discussions                       | • Local Topics & Guests  |
| 12 pm | Greenbelt Newsreel                          | • Community Events • Weekly Updates  |
| 1 pm  | Strata                                      | • Cultural Heritage & Archeology   |
| 2 pm  | Greenbelt Newsreel                          | • Community Events • Weekly Updates  |
| 3 pm  | GATe Classic Film ★<br>Fantasy/Drama • 1950 | • Orpheus/Orphée • Jean Cocteau<br>Made Possible by a Grant from<br>★ Anonymous Donors ★ |
| 5 pm  | Strata                                      | • Cultural Heritage & Archeology   |
| 6 pm  | Greenbelt Newsreel                          | • Community Events • Weekly Updates  |
| 7 pm  | Democracy Now!                              | • Independent Global News  |
| 8 pm  | GATe Classic Film ★<br>Fantasy/Drama • 1950 | • Orpheus/Orphée • Jean Cocteau<br>Made Possible by a Grant from<br>★ Anonymous Donors ★ |
| 10 pm | Democracy Now!                              | • Independent Global News  |
| 11 pm | Greenbelt Discussions                       | • Local Topics & Guests  |
| 12 am | Greenbelt Newsreel                          | • Community Events • Weekly Updates  |

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77  
STREAMING LIVE at [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream)



# The Invisible Vegan: Urging Others to Embrace a New Diet

by Jim Link

(This review of a Reel and Meal event in March 2019 is the last article Jim Link, who died on December 23, wrote for the News Review.)

On March 18 at the New Deal Café the Reel and Meal program presented the documentary film, *The Invisible Vegan*, after which knowledgeable guest speakers fielded questions from an audience of 87 strong. *The Invisible Vegan* describes the uphill fight of a small cadre of African American vegans to nudge, cajole, coax, coerce, pressure and persuade the larger African American community to switch to veganism.

I was enlightened. Prior to that night I had no inkling that becoming a serious vegan can be tantamount to a religious conversion. Veganism is an activist term and serious vegans get involved in environmental issues, animal rights issues and social justice issues. Everything is connected; taking care of our bodies is a spiritual gesture which spills over into becoming good stewards of our environment, which entails political activism aimed at cherishing our fellow species (animals) and working for social justice.

The film asserted that African Americans have a “vexed relationship with food.” It is easy to cling to soul food, which is delicious, comforting and can give a sense of belonging. Such clinging is an emotional choice, not a functional one. As Dr. Milton claimed, “a healthy West African diet is infinitely better than that garbage given to plantation slaves.” McDonald’s and Popeye’s were herewith cited as culpable purveyors of junk food.

Veganism has been “feminized” in the minds of many. One African American man

chuckled that “when I went vegan, my Black Card was revoked.” Another said, “I wasn’t black enough if I didn’t eat soul food.”

We learned the encouraging fact that plant-based food increases blood flow and therefore lessens impotence. John Salley, former bad boy of the world champion NBA Detroit Pistons and current vegan zealot, gallantly assured us that his vegan diet keeps him effective in the bedroom. We learned that Rosa Parks, Dexter King, C.S. King and Angela Davis are all vegan or vegetarians.

Some random quotes from various vegan activists include: “We have to think critically about all of our practice. The more light we shed on these problems, the more we force the powers that be to respond positively.” “The vegan lifestyle and animal rights activism are intimately connected to feminism and peace activism.” “Given the nature of our ecosystem, animal rights and human rights intersect.” “Animal liberation, Black liberations, queer liberation are all connected.”

Dr. Betty Holston Smith introduced the main speaker, Naijha Wright-Brown. A phenomenal

## In Memoriam Remembering Jim Link

by Martin Kwapinski

Well, we woke to some lousy Christmas news on Christmas Eve. A great man, and a good friend, has gone from this mortal sphere.

Jim Link, a lifelong educator, raconteur, man of letters and all-around character, died from a ravaging disease that inflicted continuous pain upon his body, but never touched his shining spirit of faith and hope.

Jim was a Jesuit-educated teacher of literature who had a burning love of the written word. Over the course of a long and fruitful life, he shared his enthusiasm for great literature and poetry with thousands of eager minds of all ages and inspired so many of them to pursue a lifetime of reading and exploration of the great themes of life.

As a man of faith, Jim’s natural curiosity and love of learning led him to study endless books and articles on not only his own religious beliefs, but those of every other citizen of the world.

Jim loved nothing more than reading a book and being surrounded by the books he loved to read. Even to the end, he had piles of books stacked up by his bed so he was never without his faithful companions. And he still read from them for as long as he could hold them in his hands.

There is no telling how many lives Jim touched, but we can infer just a bit of the truth by the endless streams of visitors that came to see him in his decline, and the many people who as-



Jim Link

PHOTO COURTESY, JIM LINK'S FACEBOOK PAGE

sisted him in so many ways as he began to fail.

As for my own brief experience with Jim, I regret that I only came to know him in the past few years, as a teacher in literature classes for senior citizens, and as a dear friend. From the very first class with him I recognized the same style, wit, erudition, enthusiasm and wisdom I saw so many years ago as a youthful high school student, radiating from the very best and most inspirational educators in my life.

As with all the people we love, our time together was inevitably far too short. I can only imagine the number of lives he inspired, and with great sadness mourn the loss of a great resource for humankind.

May his memory be eternal!



We are grieved to learn of the death of Jim Link, a longtime member of the Greenbelt News Review and a frequent contributor of insightful, erudite and witty reviews of movies and theatrical productions. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

Congratulations to Billy Kennedy who was accepted into the Peace Corps and will begin service this month providing health care services in South Africa.



PHOTO COURTESY THE PEACE CORPS

Billy Kennedy

Happy New Year to Greenbelt residents. We wish everyone a healthy and peaceful 2020.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

### Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410



Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

**Worship Service 10 a.m.**  
**In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. Psalm 63:7**

### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community  
**January 5 10 a.m.**

**The Ceaseless Cry that Wakes the Dead**

Rev. Benjamin Van Dyne, Guest Minister; with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller; and Guest Pianist Keith Miller

95 years after his birth, James Baldwin's life and writing has much to teach us about the challenges and joys of seeking to live with love and hope even when those seem impossible. His novel 'If Beale Street Could Talk' is a story of surviving violence, danger and racism and has lessons for us about how to love and persevere.

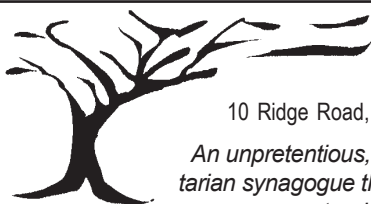
### Christian Science Church

**8300 Adelphi Road,  
Hyattsville, MD**



*It is God that girdeth me  
with strength and maketh  
my way perfect. Ps*

**Sunday School 10:30 a.m.**  
**Church Service 10:30 a.m.**  
**Wednesday meeting 7:30 p.m.**



### Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

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Haggai 1:7

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TOP STORIES continued from page 3

**Possible Bureau of Engraving And Printing Move to BARC**

A proposal announced at the end of 2018 to move one of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing’s (BEP) two production facilities from Washington, D.C., to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) was met with mostly negative responses from Greenbelt. The proposed site at BARC is about 105 acres that was once used for poultry research but has been vacant since the 1990s. The location is approximately two miles north of the BARC upper gate on Research Road in Greenbelt’s North End.

As part of the project, BEP would be responsible for cleaning up all known and unknown environmental hazards on the site such as asbestos and lead paint, removing 23 abandoned buildings, erecting a security perimeter and making any required improvements at the intersection of Powder Mill and Edmonston Roads. Greenbelt residents have raised concerns about traffic and suggested other uses for the site, but most concerns have been environmental, from losing a large area of green space to dealing with wastewater generated by the plant, to lighting up what some residents have called one of the few remaining dark spaces in the area.

**Co-op Sees Fiscal Year Loss, “We’re Right Here” Launch**

As the fiscal year for the Co-op Supermarket & Pharmacy ended on July 31, the financial news was gloomy. Amid fewer store visits, less money spent per customer and skyrocketing pharmacy costs, the Co-op sustained an operating loss of \$164,000. With overall sales under \$12M for the first time in a dozen years, the store lost out to bigger and cheaper competitors as things got tough all around in the grocery business.

In response, the Co-op board is focusing on cutting costs, increasing the attractiveness of the store’s offerings to today’s consumer and turning around its bottom line. It requests the participation of store members in helping the store recover and regroup. Decreased energy costs from the solar array and new roof, though only a small factor initially, will also aid the store’s financial position as the years go by.

At the annual meeting, store management noted that all the Co-op’s departments except beer and wine suffered a loss. Despite these losses, the mood at the annual meeting was positive and members were vocal in their support for the store’s continued survival.

Another sea change for Co-op is the departure of its manager of 35 years, Bob Davis. To a round of applause from members, he spoke of his years with the store and his hopes for its future. Davis anticipates departing in April 2020 and the board has a search committee to locate a new manager.

Undaunted by losses or by Davis’ departure, the board has announced its We’re Right Here initiative, expanding hours and rolling out a curbside pickup option. The slogan results from a survey that shows Co-op’s strong appeal to city residents as a friendly and easily accessible store with a wide range of goods.

See TOP STORIES, page 7



NEW APP continued from page 1

“we designed an app that would provide a seamless and pleasant reading experience.”

He went on to say that the app looks to foster a “more casual level” of conversation between grandparents and grandchildren, an interaction that can often feel stilted. With the addition of the reading aspect, more small talk can develop, leading to “a sense of normalcy to conversations and allows for a fabulous sharing of something special between the two family members.”

The Grunberg family has lived in Greenbelt since 1990, yet Anne Marie first moved here in 1968. The three brothers went to area schools and all three are alumni of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and the University of Maryland. With respect to development of the app, Christopher stated that a computer developer was hired “to do all the heavy lifting, because it’s a huge undertaking.” Both he and Mischa are employed in software technology.

WePair app looks to go much further as it develops. It aims to incorporate independent authors into its library and help in the purchase of their books, both physical and electronic copies. With the addition of emojis, electronic cards could be sent to children. The capability to draw, paint and work on documents that could translate into personal books, tutoring services and remote learning is being explored. Also, the creators imagine providing a music library for nonverbal users or those suffering cognitive disabilities.

Another potential use of the app was derived from an interaction in Christopher’s childhood. A fellow 5-year-old declared, “This is the best day of my life!” When asked why by his mother, the child replied, “Today is the day that my daddy gets out of jail.” Christopher thinks that it would be wonderful to offer WePair to prison systems as an incentive to those imprisoned to be able to connect and be a parent to their children.

In addition, the Grunbergs have reached out to Big Brothers



From left, Christopher, Mischa and Daniel Grunberg

Big Sisters of America to see if they would be interested in using the platform to help underprivileged children develop a love of reading.

Child safety is paramount for the creators. Safeguards such as passwords, encryption, and parent and/or legal guardian approval and supervision are being incorporated.

For those interested in trying the app, access is available at [wepair.family](http://wepair.family). A large screen device is recommended for optimum viewing. Use at this time requires no obligation to continue once the test has ended. Promotional code nwGNRiNJA will

give a 20 percent discount on the full application when it becomes available.

Christopher said that “reading is one of the most important skills we can give our children. It helps develop empathy, inspires the imagination and promotes learning.” He hopes the app will improve and strengthen family relationships.

He remarked that “we have several more steps to go from here. This hasn’t been an inexpensive endeavor. It takes time and money. So, it’s important for us to do this in stages. This allows us to get the basics down pat before adding more functionality.”

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[www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream)

Movie was made possible by a grant from  
**Beijing Chinese Restaurant**

City Notes

Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted a Kwanzaa celebration on Thursday, December 26, focusing on Umoja (Unity).

Street Maintenance continued with snow plow preparations.

Horticulture/Parks picked up leaves at curbsides in Lakeside and Greenspring I and II.

Refuse/Recycling collected 26.67 tons of refuse and 12.25 tons of recyclable material.


Building Maintenance repaired the main door and the access door at the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

**Holy Cross Thrift Store**

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# City Information & Events

**MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 6-10**

Monday, January 6 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/ Roosevelt Center Merchants** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).*

Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** at Commuity Center, 15 Crescent Road. See [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) for agenda.

Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. See [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) for agenda.

Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Beltway Plaza Proposed Redevelopment-Preliminary Plan of Subdivision*

Wednesday, January 8 at 8:30pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Beltway Plaza Proposed Redevelopment-Preliminary Plan of Subdivision** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).*

**This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held, call 301-474-8000.**

**Follow @cityofgreenbelt on social media!**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020**  
**Public Works Building 555 Crescent Road**  
**10 AM – 1 PM**

Be a part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory and invasive vines at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to place wire caging around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beaver herbivory and remove invasive vines.

Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Students: bring community-service forms

Questions? Contact Environmental Coordinator Jason Martin at [jmartin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jmartin@greenbeltmd.gov)

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee.

**For more information call 301- 474-8000**



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(Primary Care and Family Medicine)  
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Crofton, Maryland 21114  
410-305-9622

**Doctors Community Practices at District Heights**  
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)  
6400 Marlboro Pike  
District Heights, Maryland 20747  
301-327-0953

**Doctors Community Practices at Laurel**  
(Primary Care and Diabetes Care)  
13900 Baltimore Avenue  
Laurel, Maryland 20707  
301-276-7396

**Doctors Community Practices at Riverdale**  
(Primary Care, Family Medicine and Endocrinology)  
6502 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 100  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737  
301-278-8637

**Doctors Community Practices at Temple Hills**  
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)  
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Temple Hills, Maryland 20728  
240-273-4826

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(Primary Care and Family Medicine)  
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TOP STORIES continued from page 5

Old Greenbelt Theatre  
Renovates Auditorium

It has been a year full of change for the Old Greenbelt Theatre. In June, the main auditorium closed for renovations. The City of Greenbelt and the Friends of Greenbelt Theatre (FGT) worked closely together to coordinate the installation of a new HVAC system, roof, seats, screen, drapery and Dolby 7.1 sound system.

During the closure, FGT opened The Pop-up, a temporary micro-cinema in the storefront next door at 125 Centerway. Before The Pop-up was opened to the public, FGT operated out of the basement suite of the Community Center to keep their programming going for the public.

In addition, their popular free series - Monday Matinees, Storytime on Screen and School's Out - were held in the Community Center.

After 5 months of closure, the main auditorium reopened to a full house on November 9th and FGT announced their latest new initiative, Beyond the Screen. FGT has a bold vision - to create a permanent Screening Room and Media Arts Literacy Lab at 125 Centerway. This will be the only space of its kind in all of Maryland and the larger DMV area, and through it, FGT will become a leader in film and media education in the region.

Greenbelt Lake Drained  
To Facilitate Work on Dam

Repair to the Greenbelt Lake Dam started in September 2019 and is expected to be completed in April 2020. A regular 2008 state inspection of the dam deemed it a high hazard, and initiated the repair order in 2010. Funding for the dam project comes from the city, the State of Maryland and the EPA. The seven-month construction project necessitated draining the lake five feet and installing fountains to keep the remaining water circulating. The drained lake has revealed large freshwater mussels and some trash that various groups have cleaned up. After the city posted notices prohibiting walking on the lake's former bed, a prankster added the concerns that the lake area contained quicksand and angry waterfowl.

Beltway Plaza Redevelopment  
Includes Townhomes, Condos

In February 2019, Greenbelt City Council voted to approve plans to revamp Beltway Plaza, one of the oldest shopping centers in Prince George's County. The changes would happen over time, with the first phase of the five-phase project calling for the building of roughly 200 townhomes and condominiums and conversion of the old mall into a mixed-use town center. Phases two, three and four include building multifamily units, some of these possibly with age restrictions, and commercial space. Phase five, which will complete the project, plans to build an additional 15,000 to 25,000 square feet of commercial space. The total proposal includes 175 to 250 townhouses, 750 to 1,975 multifamily dwelling units and 330,000 to 460,000 square feet of commercial space. Future phases include retaining the existing Giant grocery and Target stores and building a central plaza or community gathering space with outdoor seating for restaurants and concerts, green spaces with park benches and a fountain.

In March 2019 the Prince George's Planning Commission approved the plan, sending it to the Prince George's County District Council, an elected board that reviews land use cases for the County.

Last Government Shutdown  
Affected Many Greenbelters

As 2019 started, many federal agencies had temporarily discontinued their functions (shut down) because Congress and the Trump Administration were not able to agree on legislation that would have provided funding for them to remain open. The shutdown lasted for 35 days, from December 22, 2018 until January 25, 2019. It was the longest U.S. government shutdown in history, and the second shutdown involving furloughs during the current administration. Around 420,000 workers considered essential, such as Transportation Security Administration (TSA) personnel, were

See TOP STORIES, page 8

Mindful Music  
For the New Year

College Park Arts Exchange will hold a free meditative music workshop with Jael Patterson at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, on Saturday, January 4, from 3 to 4 p.m.

The Mindful Music workshop will use music as a container to place affirmations and hopes for oneself for the new year. Using mindfulness principles, participants will reconnect with their bodies through music, going back to basics with body percussion and vocals. No musicianship required, only an open mind.

For more information visit [cpae.org](http://cpae.org).



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SCIENTIST continued from page 1

University.

The lab is set up to look at present day particle events, so looking at the beginnings of life on Earth is a detour. But Mitchell wanted to put the time in because, he said, "You can't get any more basic than this."

The team, which consists of Mitchell, de Nolfo, Vladimir Aipetian, Alessandro Bruno, Eric Christian, Ian Richardson and James Ryan, worked on the issue of types of energy. It is likely that the Sun provided the energy that changed the gases on Earth. This has been the assumption all along, but was not broken down into the different types of energy that solar flares emit.

That was where this group came in. They started with a known scenario.

When our planet was young, it was enveloped by inert gases, including nitrogen and oxygen. Those gases would have stayed inert, but something happened.

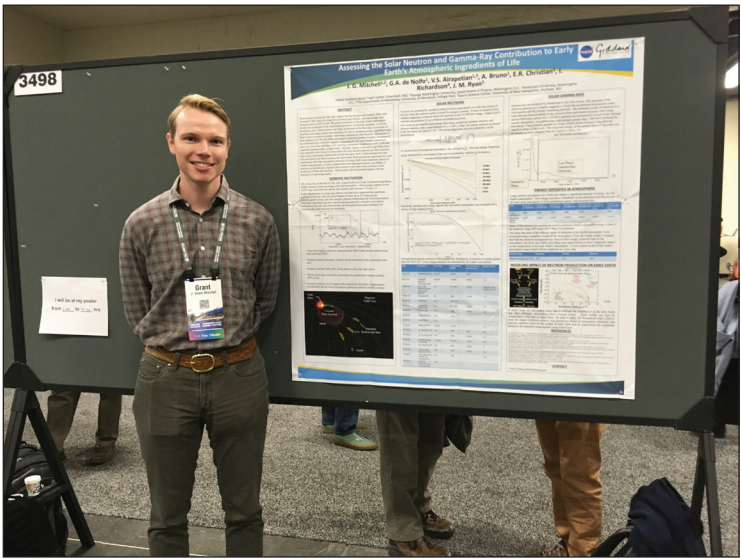
The Sun was young then too. A young star sends off much more energy than an older, more mature star. Scientists know this because of the observations from the Kepler Telescope. Kepler looks at many stars, some old, some young. And young stars that are similar to our Sun send off as many as 10 flares a day.

The energy from these solar eruptions is huge. Scientists have measured the energy by looking at tree-ring data that corresponds with known solar flares from our Sun. Obviously if there were tree rings to look at, life on Earth had already been established so this wasn't in situ measurements. But the team used that data to extrapolate back. They assumed that if the Sun sent off that kind of energy now, it sent off at least that much energy when it was a young star.

So Mitchell and his colleagues used a simple computer model of a young planet and its inert gases. They were able to predict the behavior of high-energy charged particles, and will add the effect of neutral gamma rays and neutrons next. Gamma rays have higher energy than X-rays. They are used to treat some types of cancer. They are powerful, but not at the level of the high-energy charged particles, which are associated with nuclear bombs.

With the behaviors of different energy particles ready, the model bombarded the fictitious planet. Solar flare after solar flare hit the atmosphere of inert gases.

According to the model, the high-energy particles impact the upper atmosphere. But Mitchell and his team know that the gamma rays and neutrons keep traveling. They don't get to the surface, but do get further into



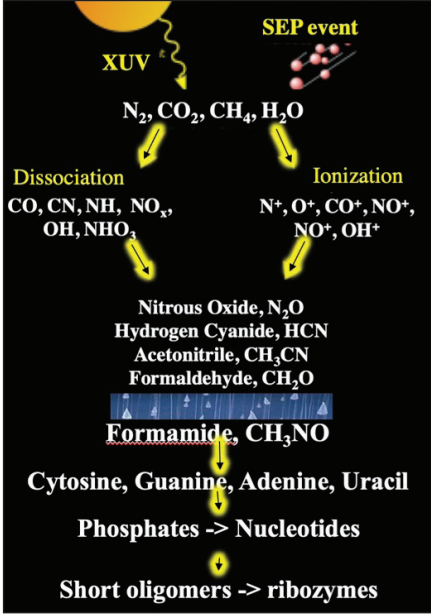
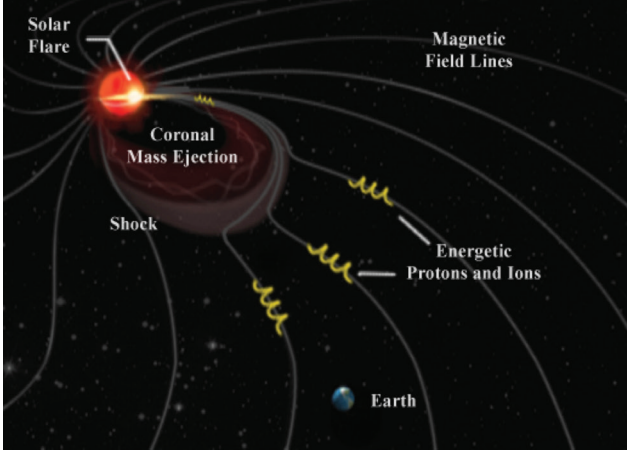
Grant Mitchell presents his poster at the American Geophysical Meeting in San Francisco on Tuesday, December 10.

the gaseous mixture. And they still had enough energy to have an effect.

Which means it could have been the gamma rays and neutrons that were responsible for the first steps in life. Their energy changed nitrogen and oxygen gases into the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide (laughing gas).

And that set Earth on the path to being a planet warm enough to support liquid water.

Mitchell said the next steps are to use a more sophisticated model and collect more information from scientists who study planets. This isn't his day job or his dissertation. But, still, he said, the beginning of life on Earth "is a fun side project."



Details from Grant Mitchell's poster  
- Images by Grant Mitchell

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## TOP STORIES continued from page 7

working unpaid, while another 380,000 were not reporting to work, including almost all employees of NASA and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. Also affected were employees of government contractors.

Personal and family economic issues of Greenbelt residents affected by the furlough were prevalent. Many Greenbelters felt the pinch. Contractors with offices at federal facilities were also off the job, and federal payments to contractors were not made. Individuals postponed non-essential spending in order to make sure there was enough for food, mortgage or rent payments and transportation. Perhaps the biggest economic effect of the shutdown was uncertainty about how long personal financial reserves would last.

Other furlough effects on Greenbelters included emotional responses such as anger, fear and depression. The uncertainty of what would come next and when caused stress, anxiety and worry. Other effects included changed or cancelled vacations, cancelled recreational or educational activities at government facilities and, for Greenbelters, changed driving patterns, since Research Road was closed during the shutdown.

On December 20, 2019 a deal to fund the government for the rest of the current fiscal year was signed into law, avoiding a repeat of the difficulties resulting from the 2018-2019 shutdown.

### News Review's New Digital Archive Takes Shape Online

The Greenbelt Archive Project (GAP, [greenbeltarchive.org](http://greenbeltarchive.org)) made great progress in 2019 on digitizing past issues of the Greenbelt News Review. In January, Cecilia Franck, a University of Maryland graduate student paid by grants GAP received from the Prince George's County Council, began to scan the newsprint originals from 1964, working forward. By the end of the year, Franck had scanned more than 26 years – over 11,000 pages – of Greenbelt news. Digital papers from 1964 through 1989 have been posted on the Internet Archive ([archive.org/details/greenbelt-news-review](http://archive.org/details/greenbelt-news-review)); 1964 to 1969 also can be accessed at [greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives/](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives/).

In addition, Greenbelt newspapers from 1943 through 1963 were digitized by a contractor paid by University of Maryland Libraries under a 2018 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. These issues of the News Review and its predecessor, the Greenbelt Cooperator (the name was changed in 1954), will be posted by the Library of Congress on the Chronicling America website ([chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89061521](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89061521)), where Co-operators from 1937 to 1943 are already available.

GAP aims to have the complete set of Greenbelt newspapers – from 1937 to present – available on Internet Archive and the News Review server in fall 2020.

### CCI Clinic Has New Home

In response to increasing needs in Prince George's County, last spring the Maryland Community Clinic Health & Wellness Services (CCI) office, previously located on Edmonston Road, moved most of its services to a larger space at 7474 Greenway Center Drive. In addition to having room to grow and an ability to provide Saturday hours, CCI will benefit from Greenway Center's having evolved into a medical hub for the Greenbelt area, offering many nearby medical practitioners to whom patients may easily be referred.

Services available at the Greenway Center location include those for medical and behavioral health, as well as the federally funded Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. Services remaining in Springhill Lake at 9220 Springhill Lane include dental, family planning and prenatal care.

CCI is a nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with a designated service area encompassing Montgomery and northern Prince George's counties. FQHCs receive funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration to provide primary care services in underserved areas. They must meet a stringent set of requirements, including providing care on a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay.

### Maglev Project Paused Until EIS Is Completed

While the proposed \$10 billion maglev train project is paused at the moment, the high-speed train continues to gain many opponents and a few supporters in Greenbelt. If built, the high-speed, underground, magnetic levitation train would provide service between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore and would pass under some portion of Greenbelt. Many opponents of the train point at the environmental and housing damage that might be caused by tunneling under homes and digging up wooded areas, as well as the fact the train would not be accessible for local people. Proponents point at the environmental boons of mass transit and the wonders of a short commute between Washington and Baltimore.

The Greenbelt City Council is on record as opposing the project, having sent a letter in January 2018 to then-Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker. Informational meetings continued throughout the year, but opponents point out that the actual environmental assessment is not available, making it harder to know the real costs and dangers. The project was officially put on hold in December 2019 as the Federal Railroad Administration gave the maglev builder, a company called Northeast, more time to complete an environmental impact statement. Northeast's next deadline is the end of February.

## Community Church Breakfast



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ holds a breakfast and Christmas Carol service on the Sunday after Christmas.

visit [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Attempted Murder**  
December 25, 2:19 a.m., 6200 block Breezewood Drive. Officers responded to a report of a shooting. A man said he was in his residence when an argument broke out among several other people. When he attempted to get the others to leave, one of them shot him once in the back. All three men then fled.

**Robbery**  
December 20, 6:25 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Terrace. As many as seven men approached a man who was walking from an apartment building. One in the group was armed with a handgun. A robbery was announced and the man's debit card was taken. The men then ran from the area.

December 25, 2:14 a.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace. A taxi driver picked up a man in Laurel and drove him to the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace. The rider then produced a knife and announced a robbery. He fled on foot after obtaining money. He is described as Hispanic, 20 to 30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall with a heavy build, wearing a black jacket, blue jeans and red-and-black Nike sneakers.

**Reckless Endangerment**  
December 23, 12:08 a.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. Officers responded to a report of the sound of shots being fired and found several bullet casings in the area. There were no injuries but rounds did strike the interior walls of several residences.

**Theft**  
December 19, 7:59 a.m. A 15-year-old Greenbelt youth was arrested for a theft that had occurred December 14 in the 9200 block Springhill Lane. He was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

December 24, 9100 block Springhill Lane. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence on December 17.

**Disorderly Conduct**  
December 24, 11:32 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. A 30-year-old man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, second degree assault on a police officer and resisting arrest after officers responded to a report of a disorderly person. He was released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

**Burglary**  
December 23, 9:45 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. The door chain lock to an apartment was found broken on the floor and the home had been entered but nothing appears to have been taken.

**Vandalism**  
December 24, 6:15 p.m., 7500 block Greenbrook Drive. Two bedroom windows of a residence were broken out by rocks.

**Vehicle Crime**  
A 22-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with theft after he was stopped for a traffic violation. A computer check revealed that the tags on the vehicle had been reported stolen to Prince George's County police. He was released on citation pending trial.

A 17-year-old nonresident was arrested for rogue and vagabond by officers who responded to a report of possible tampering in progress. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

One vehicle was stolen from the 9100 block Edmonston Court, a gray 2015 Toyota RAV4 with Maryland tags 9DS9489.

A key for wheel locks was taken from the 7900 block Mandan Road. Three tires and rims were taken from one vehicle on Frankfort Drive near Morrison Drive. Rear Pennsylvania tag 3380878 was taken in the 6100 block Breezewood Court.

Four thefts of items occurred after windows had been broken to gain access. In the 9100 block Springhill Lane a wallet was taken; in the 6100 block Breezewood Court change was taken; in the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, a notebook computer and wallet; and in the 7400 block Greenway Center Drive, personal identification cards and a credit card.

Attempted thefts were made in four locations after windows had been broken but nothing appeared to have been taken. Two occurred in the 7800 block Mandan Road and the others in the 8000 block Mandan Road and the 7700 block Hanover Parkway.

Vandalism was reported in the 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, where a brick was used to break out a window.

## New Police Camera



Greenbelt police set up a new mobile video guard in the Greenbriar Condos parking lot, across from Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

- Photos by Steve Bucca

## Police Actions After Shots Fired Near Greenway Center

On Monday December 23, 12:08 a.m. in the 7700 block Hanover Parkway, officers responded to a report of sounds of shots being fired near Greenway Center and found several bullet casings. No injuries were found, but rounds did strike the interior walls of several residences. A witness described possible suspects seen running from the area as three males, young with thin builds, wearing all black clothing. In response, police set up a mobile camera system the afternoon of Thursday, December 26 to aid in monitoring the area. The cameras were moved a short distance away soon after, for a better field of view.

The Greenbelt police share public frustration about these recent events and assure residents that the department is making every possible effort to apprehend those responsible, with extra area-specific patrols occurring now.

In addition to continuing a heavy police presence in the area and the ongoing efforts by investigators actively working this case, the department is working with police partners in the area to make the best use of all resources available. Police continue to work with school officials from nearby Eleanor Roosevelt High School and residence management representatives.

Anyone with any information about this incident or who might be responsible should contact the Greenbelt Police Department. You do not need to leave your name. Parents are urged to speak with their children about this. Any information from any source may help to put an end to these

dangerous incidents and ensure a safe community for our residents. Do not hesitate to contact Detective Fernandez at 240-542-2133 or the police department at 301-474-7200.



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Lizzy, reindeer-in-training, is spotted prancing in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve two days before Christmas.

PHOTO BY YONI SIEGEL

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

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## RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 8 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 4 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 8 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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Sports

Area 53 Alien Raiders Host Robotics Tournament at ERHS

by Deb Kaelberer

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Robotics Team, known as the Area 53 Alien Raiders, hosted the first VEX robotics tournament ever in Prince George’s County, the Capital Beltway Challenge, on December 21. VEX robotics is the largest high school robotics program globally with more than 20,000 teams and is growing by leaps and bounds every year. Students further their understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by designing, building and programming their robot to perform various tasks as required by each year’s tournament rules.

The VEX game is played on a 12-foot by 12-foot field; the 2019-2020 game has 66 cubes available for scoring, and the objective is to score points by stacking cubes in goal areas and placing cubes in towers. Two alliances, composed of two teams each, compete in a two-minute game.

Seven area teams fielded 17 squads in total, coming from as far away as Hagerstown and Monkton, Md., with no fewer than six Roosevelt squads participating. Squad 53A, in a strong performance, placed fourth and made it to the semi-finals of the tournament, and won the prestigious Judges Award as well.

The ERHS Robotics Team, coached by Mark Campbell, has 38 members divided into seven squads this year, having grown steadily from 20 students and only four squads three years ago. The VEX season begins in June and runs throughout the school year to the State, U.S. National and World Championships in March and April. Team 53 meets every Thursday and many Fridays throughout the school year.



Four of the five 53A squad members are shown under the Capital Beltway Classic banner. From left, Auden Baldwin-Bott, Aditya Agarwal, Squad Leader Teresa Thoundayil and Kevin Yen. The adults in the photo are some of the judges who determined the Judges Award winner.

VEGAN continued from page 4

woman Dr. Smith is living testimony to the curative powers of veganism. After being an obese couch potato for years, she told us, “Today I am a super-fit, healthy 78-year-old, on no medication, a veteran of running over 100,000 miles.” She has run 125 marathons including at least one on all seven continents. (Who runs a marathon in Antarctica?)

Wright-Brown is co-owner of the Land of Kush, a vegan soul food bistro in Baltimore. “The food culture in Baltimore is changing. We have to educate, organize, publicize, promote –

you have to promote what you’re doing,” she said enthusiastically. The evening’s buzz and hum was sponsored by Green Vegan Networking. Frank Gervasi, Alicia Deligianis and Jean Newcomb cooked a delicious vegan meal, while Lucy Duff, Donna Hoffmeister and Susan Barnett dealt with the logistics. It is appropriate that such an event is held at the New Deal Café, whose chefs, Leah and Michael Moon, serve customers a healthful aesthetically pleasing all vegan menu. The next Reel and Meal is June 17.

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**Brick Townhome** Two-bedroom brick townhome w/ full bath. Hardwood flooring. Separate laundry room. Laminate flooring on main level.  
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**Estate Sale** Remodeled 2-bedroom GHI townhome. Modern kitchen with new appliances. 2 bedrooms and more. Ceramic-tiled bath. \$119,900  
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## Looking for a Fun Resolution? Come Join the GNR Ad Team

The Greenbelt News Review seeks a few more helpers in its advertising department. For over 80 years, this newspaper has flourished not just because of its advertisers and readers but because the ad staff is there to keep it all straight. Every week, our ad staff corral the ads, make sure they get in the paper at the right size and track each and every one of them through to production. Without their careful oversight and dedication, the paper would be without the oxygen that keeps it going. No Ads. No paper.

Advertising office hours are Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday evening 6 to 8 p.m.. Currently six members help with advertising. Sylvia Lewis handles display advertising with the help of Suzette Joyner Thompson and JoEllen Sarff . Classifieds are the territory of Jessi Britton with help from Joanne Tucker and Patricia Novinski. When someone is out, everyone has to scurry to keep up – so some extra hands would be great to have.

The ad staff are part of the public face of the newspaper and some of our staff spend a fair amount of their time on the phone with customers or sorting out occasional problems or concerns. A comfort level with computers is very useful and especially with MSExcel, which we use to record the ads as they

arrive and to provide data feeds to our accounting system. Ad staff are also encouraged to seek new advertisers or offer additional services to those we have.

If your New Year’s resolution includes doing something for your community (and yourself at the same time), this may be the perfect slot for you to fulfill your vow and still have a good time. The hours are short and predictable and the crew cheerful and energetic – indeed, sometimes downright rambunctious. Sign up for a shift, become a member and learn the ways of the Greenbelt News Review.

The pay for all this dedication is minimal. Everyone who works consistently at the newspaper is a member and the members own the newspaper. It is a worker cooperative that is more concerned with its big impact on the community than big paychecks. The dividends paid to staff are not a living wage – but they’re a help. Some staff elect to forgo dividends, instead essentially giving them back to support the newspaper. Either way, members are dedicated to the weekly miracle that is the Greenbelt News Review.

To find out more, call Sylvia Lewis at 301-474-4131 during office hours (or leave a message) or email the Ad Desk at [ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



From the Archives

## Town’s Christmas Isn’t What It Was

There will not be a community Christmas party this year [1944], according to Community Manager James T. Gobbel. Lights for a tree are unobtainable, and paper or imitation ornaments proved impractical last year, he explained.

These difficulties together with the manpower shortage led the Town Council to forego the traditional celebration. This is the second year that the community has failed to observe the holiday season publicly. In previous years, however, Christmas gave Greenbelters something to remember. There was the tall com-

munity tree across the street from the Shopping Center, aglow with lights after a ceremony of speeches and carols. Many homes, too, brightened the town with outdoor trees lit with blue and green, red and yellow.

Best of all memories to early residents was Santa Claus, who usually appeared at the Variety Store about a week before Christmas. In 1938, financed by the Citizens Association and the Mothers Club, Santa Claus held open house with a present for every child in Greenbelt. And nearly a thousand showed up for the fun.



# To Reduce Food Waste, Shop Co-op’s Perishable Food Sales

by Lesley Kash

Greenbelt’s Co-op grocery store offers an efficient, budget-friendly way to fight the ecological damage caused by food waste. Bins throughout Co-op’s perishable food departments contain ever-changing assortments of foods, drastically reduced in price and perfectly safe to consume.

Many consumers misunderstand the dates displayed on food products. This labeling protocol is a creation of food packagers and is neither consistent nor regulated. Product dating (i.e., “sell by” or “use by” dates) is not required by federal regulations, according to the USDA website which says it is safe to use or freeze products with any sell-by date within three to five days of purchase.

Many charities and companies do try to recover foods that may be wasted due to these dates or some imperfection of size or appearance. Though some grocery stores attempt to transfer wasted food to charities, many choose not to.

“Wasting food uses up over \$172 billion in wasted water,” claims Ben Simon, co-founder and CEO of Imperfect Foods. “Each year,” he says, “as a country we spend over \$220 billion growing, transporting and processing almost 70 million tons of food that ends up going to waste. Growing food that goes to waste ends up using 21 percent of our freshwater, 19 percent of our fertilizer, 18 percent of our cropland, and 21 percent of our landfill volume.”

Recovery efforts help, but they still require additional resources to identify, transport and distribute potentially wasted food to people who want it. Within the



This beautiful little roasted chicken, reduced by 60% just one day after its sell-by date, is cheap enough to go into a soup pot whole.

- Photos by Lesley Kash



Soup stock can be made from a reduced chicken and vegetables.

Co-op, this transformation just involves a markdown pen and a move of a few feet to the sale bins.

Since sell-by dates are not a concern of the USDA, they need not worry savvy, budget-conscious, environmentally-aware shoppers. Especially in the cold

weather, when soup, chili and casseroles are warming and welcome, be resourceful and add a few extra ingredients. Co-op’s sale bins, scattered throughout the perishable food departments, can add extra flavor to the meal, nutrition to the family and money to the budget.



Roof work at the Co-op supermarket continues.

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

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